

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 MC-02 ACDA-19 EB-11 RSR-01

/155 W

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R 081515 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3527

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USUN 813

AMEMBASSY MASSERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0443

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, FR, SF

SUBJ: FRANCO- SOUTH AFRICAN RELATIONS

REF: PARIS 15719

1. VIEWED FROM STANDPOINT OF FRENCH ATTITUDES AND
ACTIVITIES AS THEY ARE MANIFESTED IN SOUTH AFRICA, THE
DIFFERENCES IN US AND FRENCH APPROACHES TO SOUTH AFRICA
ARE SHARPLY ETCHED AND SIMILARITIES ONLY DIMLY
PERCEIVED.

2. FRENCH MAY HOPE FOR EVOLUTIONARY IMPROVEMENT OF
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF BLACKS,
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BUT THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THIS COUNTRY GIVE NO INDICATION THAT THEY ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING WAYS TO STIMULATE OR IN ANY PALPABLE WAY ASSIST IN THAT DEVELOPMENT. AS EMBASSY PARIS NOTED IN REFTTEL, GOF HAS DONE LITTLE TO PRODUCE FRENCH FIRMS TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF BLACK EMPLOYEES. WE WOULD GO ONE STEP FURTHER, BASED ON OUR OBSERVATIONS, AND SUGGEST THAT GOF HAS DONE NEXT TO NOTHING.

3. NOT ONLY HAVE FRENCH NOT ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH BANTUSTAN LEADERS, THEIR DIPLOMATIC MISSION HERE IS IN FOREFRONT OF THOSE EMBASSIES WHICH HAVE MADE AT BEST ONLY TOKEN EFFORT TO COMMUNICATE WITH ANY BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS. FRENCH DIPLOMATS HAVE, FOR EXAMPLE, CONSPICUOUSLY AVOIDED HOLDING MULTI-RACIAL SOCIAL FUNCTIONS. INSENSITIVITY OF FRENCH TO FEELINGS OF AFRICANS WAS WELL ILLUSTRATED BY INCIDENT DURING RECENT TRIP TO NAMIBIA BY FRENCH AMBASSADOR. IN WINDHOEK HE MADE NO EFFORT CALL ON BLACK LEADERS LIKE CHIEF CLEMENS KAPUUBO AND DAVID MERORO, BUT INSTEAD INVITED THEM TO MEET WITH HIM AT OFFICE OF SAG OFFICIAL. ANGRY RESPONSE BY MERORO, WHICH APPEARED IN PRESS, WAS, TO SAY THE LEAST, EMBARRASSING TO FRENCH.

4. IN THEIR RELATIONS, OR, BETTER PUT, LACK OF RELATIONS, WITH SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS, FRENCH SEEM TO BE GUIDED BY IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO MAINTAINING MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RAPPORT WITH VORSTER GOVERNMENT. THEY MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO HIDE THEIR EFFORTS TO SELL MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICA, FUDGING ONLY TO EXTENT OF SAYING THAT THIS IS PURELY COMMERCIAL VENTURE CARRIED OUT BY FRENCH BUSINESSMEN. IF THIS DISCLAIMER RINGS HOLLOW, FRENCH DIPLOMATS MAKE NO APOLOGY FOR IT.

5. AS LONG AS FRENCH REGARD SOUTH AFRICA'S ROLE IN DEFENDING WESTERN SECURITY INTERESTS IN INDIAN OCEAN AS OF MORE IMPORTANCE THAN WE DO, AND AS LONG AS THEIR ECONOMIC STAKE GROWS, WE BELIEVE THAT REGARDLESS OF SURFACE COMMONALITY OF OUR BASIC POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA, THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE WAY WE AND THEY TRANSLATE POLICY INTO ACTIONS IN THIS COUNTRY WILL

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CONTINUE TO BE MARKED. MOREOVER, THOSE MATTERS ON WHICH WE DO NOT SHARE A COMMON AIM (E.G., NAMIBIA) WILL ACCENTUATE THE DIVERGENT APPROACHES WE AND THE FRENCH WILL TAKE REGARDING OUR ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND OUR CONTACTS WITH THE RULING ESTABLISHMENT, WHITE OPPOSITION AND UNENFRANCHISED BLACK MAJORITY.

HURD.

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